



Columbia River Gillnetter

COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION

WINTER 1990



*Remembering a Bygone Era of the Union
Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company — page 21*

Compact sets 19-day season

KELSO, WASH. — Lower Columbia River Gillnetters will get 19 days of fishing time for their 1990 winter fishing season, the Columbia River Compact announced at its January 24 meeting here, the earliest opening in thirty years.

The season, which is well underway at presstime, began Sunday night, February 11 through February 13, and will continue February 14-16 the first week.

Five-day weeks are scheduled for February 18-23, February 25-March 2 and March 4-9, but could end earlier if 32,800 spring chinook are caught.

Commercial fishermen are looking ahead to their share of a predicted record Willamette River spring chinook salmon run — the largest portion of the annual run which returns to Lower Columbia River tributaries and

hatcheries. According to biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 150,100 lower river fish will swim into Columbia River tributary systems this year, with a whopping 128,000 of them bound for the Willamette and its tributaries.

Also, nearly 121,000 upriver salmon are expected to follow the lower river run on the Columbia, the biggest return since 1978.

Although fishermen reeled in 13,900 spring chinook last season, (their second best in the 1980's), it was still far short of the 20,000 fish quota set by the department. Unusually cold weather and pesky sea lions were blamed for the depleted catches.

For a more detailed look at 1989 fish runs and catches, see pages 24-25.

The Columbia: River of No Return?

Dams are making many fish species virtually extinct

The great Columbia River once supported the largest runs of Chinook and coho salmon in the world, but hydroelectric, flood control and irrigation dams have more than taken their toll on returning fish runs.

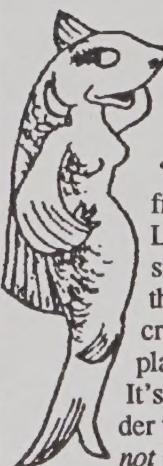
About one-half of the Columbia River system, which flows mightily along some 259,000 square miles, is completely isolated from salmon and steelhead production because of dams — more than 100 of them are in place along the river.

A statement made in 1970 by Robert Sayre of the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is just as apropos today:

"Good runs of salmon and steelhead do continue to enter the Columbia River. These fish are mainly from

Please turn to page 4

*Sally the
Salmon
says...*



"Well, I see my old friend Johnny the Sea Lion is back in town, sitting on the buoy over there, trying to look discreet. I guess it's time to play cat & mouse again! It's getting harder and harder to avoid him, but he's not gonna catch me!"

FROM THE EDITOR *Seals and Sea Lions: A dilemma on the Columbia*

The past five years the California Sea Lion has increased in alarming numbers. They have quickly learned to loiter under the docks of local seafood plants to feast on fish waste.

They've also learned to effectively monitor and rob a fishermen's gillnet when a fish swims into it.

And they learn fast.

At night a gillnetter is all but at the mercy of the pesky mammals, and many fishermen have just given up fishing after dark.

Now, after a lengthy five-year governmental study, the government wants to do another five-year study — and charge commercial fishermen for it. Plans are for commercial fishermen (in Categories 1 and 2) to be required to register with the National Marine Fisheries Service, pay a fee of \$30 and receive a sticker. Category 1 fishermen must also carry an on-board observer if requested by the NMFS.

Fishermen in the first two categories must also keep a daily on-board log of any interaction with marine mammals, and send it in at the end of the year.

And if you're caught without any of these there are fines and penalties aplenty.

Specifically, the three categories are designated as follows:

CATEGORY 1: Frequent taking

CATEGORY 2: Occasional taking

CATEGORY 3: Rare taking

Unfortunately, Columbia River Gillnetters have been placed in category 1. We belong in category 2 — takings are not that frequent — definitely *not* as frequent as fish-stealing. The Columbia should be an exception to the Pacific Coast classification.

The only way we can change this silly ruling is by writing our congressmen and telling them that our nets are not capable of holding a strong sea lion — they simply swim right through it. And our boats are much too small for observers — many are just large enough for two.

Why bother with another five-year study when there are roomsful of reports and documents from this one? What will

they learn from it that they didn't in the first five years?

Meanwhile the commercial fisherman is the one who suffers, not the sea lions.

The California Sea Lion is anything but endangered — there are literally hundreds of them around. You need not look far.

I urge fishermen to call or write your state and district congressmen and urge them to amend this crazy mammal act. (See page 26.) *We cannot make a difference unless we voice our opinions.*

Let's make it *loud!*

On a lighter, but just as important note, it's time to address those gillnetters who continue to roar past drifting fishermen at full throttle.

It's no fun picking up things that literally fly off of shelves, or spill from coffee cups, and it's not funny, either.

It's time for you speedsters to realize that there are others on the river, fellow fishermen, who deserve more simple respect and better judgment than you're giving them.

And it won't even take you *that* much longer to get there.

—Don Riswick

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Secretary Report

We, the Columbia River Gillnetters, would like to take this opportunity to thank Larry Johnson and all the people who helped produce the video "Work Is Our Joy."

I think it tells a pretty complete story of our gillnet fishery from the early stages to the present day. It is not only important for people today to gain a better understanding of our way of life, but also for future generations to look back and see the changes that have taken place over the years.

It's no secret that we are proud of our fishery, and when citizen groups or agencies attempt to cut us back without just reason, we fight back to protect our livelihood — and rightly so.

Some of the most notable changes over the years have been the move from sailboats to power boats, and in more recent times, the move from wooden bow-pickers to reel boats made of fiberglass or aluminum.

Engines in these boats went from one or two cylinders to the six and eight cylinder motors of today. The gear used in the gillnet fishery took a major change in the mid-1950's, when nylon netting replaced the old linen nets. Wooden floats (corks) were replaced by plastic and styrofoam.

None of these changes was the result of new fishing laws. Since 1974, when steelhead became a game fish, we have had to use a mesh-size of 8-inches or larger in most of our seasons in order to protect the taking of the steelhead.

For a fishery which is well over one-hundred years old, the changes have made for a better industry. I believe the Columbia River Gillnetter would like to be looked upon as a farmer of the river, a hard-worker who puts a top-quality food product on the world's table.

If there is someone who believes they have a problem with our actions, we will gladly meet them more than halfway to solve that problem.

—Jack Marinovich

River of No Return *continued*

lower and middle tributaries. There are also 22 fish hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin now devoted to the production of fall chinook, coho, spring chinook and steelhead trout.

Why are the Columbia River salmon and steelhead threatened? They are threatened because passage at dams remains a problem because consumptive use of water is becoming more critical — and because pollution of the waters and damage to the watersheds continue."

And today it's Idaho's Salmon River run that essentially facing extinction because of dams. In 1955, 4,000 sockeye made their way here to spawn, 47 in 1984, and just two managed to make it back in 1989.

It's a pretty rough road to travel — the returning salmon must swim nearly 1,000 miles to reach their spawning grounds — further than any other North American fish save for Alaska.

Years ago, many thousands of fish returned to the Salmon River. One report says a gold miner snagged more than 500 salmon in one day back in 1881.

Gold miners built a dam on the Salmon in 1910, which blocked the upper portion of the river system, and all annual fish runs have decreased ever since.

It is feared that a steadily growing number of other Oregon, Washington and Idaho fish runs are nearing, or are already facing, total extinction.

Concerned conservationists are saying that a solution could be to place the disappearing fish runs on the federal Endangered Species List, a plan currently being explored by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

It would be just the second time in history that a salmon run has made the endangered list — last August the fisheries service placed the winter chinook run in California's Sacramento River on the list to be protected.

If this should happen on the Columbia River, the effects would be far-reaching. First, river water needed to keep the fish alive could no longer be used to generate power, and all indications point toward a serious power shortage in the Northwest in the 1990's.

Congress created the Northwest Power Planning Council in 1980, in an attempt to save the salmon with an objective of producing more fish without sacrificing power production.

Money for this effort, which paid for the building of hatcheries and other fish-protecting measures at dams, came from the budget of the Bonneville Power Administration — and ultimately the pocketbooks of the utility's ratepayers.

—Continued on page 12

Many CRFPU members serve on various agencies and advisory boards. Members are encouraged to contact individuals regarding specific issues, or call the Union office.

LOWER RIVER SNAG FUND — Don Riswick, 325-2507; Phillip Johnson, 325-5546.

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Youngs Bay grant will raise more chinook

ASTORIA — A state grant to the Clatsop Economic Development Committee's Fisheries Project will pay for 24 new floating fish pens on Youngs Bay.

Thanks to the 1989 Fisheries Restoration and Enhancement Act, \$285,872 of increased fees and license charges for both commercial and recreational fishermen are being set aside for the net pens, which will raise young salmon on the south shore of Youngs Bay.

According to Jim Hill, director of the project, the grant was approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in mid-January.

The new pens will be used to raise nearly one million Rogue River fall chinook salmon, to be released in the bay in August of 1991, depending upon the amount of eggs available, according to Rich Barry, restoration and enhancement coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The majority of the 24 pens will be placed alongside six rearing pens currently in place at the Tide Point Grocery moorage facility on Youngs Bay. Tide Point Proprietor Ivan Larsen is donating the additional space needed for the new pens. The remainder of the pens are to be put in place at the Bornstein Seafoods docks just west of Tide Point.

"This project will be of primary benefit to commercial fisheries, both to the ocean (troll) fishery and the lower Columbia River gillnet fishery," Barry said.

Wishing Fishermen the best fishing season ever!

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Eggs from mature salmon returning to hatcheries on both the Rogue River and at Big Creek Fish Hatchery near Knappa will be used for the project, Hill said. Fall chinook have been reared and released at the Big Creek facility for several years.

From financial support of the ODFW, the CEDC has released a small amount of Rogue River fall chinook each year since 1983, from about 13,000 to 150,000 fish annually.

The Rogue River fish are of a higher quality and have a much better survival rate than do the native (and hatchery) low-

er Columbia River fall chinook, or "tules," which tend to stray north to Canadian waters and face effective fishermen, while the Rogue stocks remain just off of the Oregon coast.

Created in the mid-1970's, the CEDC Fisheries Project has brought the commercial salmon fishery on Youngs Bay back to health. The project is also working to introduce a spring chinook salmon fishery on the bay. 

Related story on page 8

CRFPU NEEDS YOU!

The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union depends upon membership dues to keep us afloat and abreast of the current issues facing Lower Columbia Gillnetters. Many fishermen are "slipping by" without contributing — when we need a union that represents *fishermen!* It *does* makes a difference. Attend our meetings — we can't represent you if we don't know what you're thinking. Many fishermen have turned to more lucrative jobs to supplement their incomes. We *encourage* part-time fishermen to join CRFPU! We need your support! Yearly dues are \$150, and may be paid in installments. Use handy clip-out on page 36!

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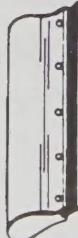
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BRIEFLY

Dolphins join the Navy

SEATTLE — A pair of specially-trained dolphins have been purchased by the United States Navy from Japan, at the furious dismay of animal rights activists around the world.

According to the Navy, the two dolphins will be used for research or submarine-hunting maneuvers, and "unclassified, very basic research on what kind of signals the animals send out, what frequencies they receive and how it works," said a Navy spokesperson.

The pair of mammals were purchased for \$2,290 each from commercial fishermen in western Japan early last summer. This particular type of dolphin, called Risso's, have the ability to dive to depths of over 3,000 feet, which makes them particularly valuable to the Navy.

Animal rights activists are counteracting with on-going protests and intense lobbying, saying the Navy's "tests" are harmful to the mammals.

Salmon and Steelhead related

1989 marked the year that the American Fisheries Society began to list each Western trout in the genus *Oncorhynchus* as wild Pacific salmon.

Before, Western trout such as steelhead (*salmo gairdneri*) have been classified with the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and the brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). Now, steelhead will be classed with the Pacific salmon, as *Oncorhynchus mykiss*.

The new evidence by the AFS puts all native Western trout, including steelhead, in the same classification.

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Marine Electronics 1990: Hi-Tech on the High Seas

The 1990's promise to be a breakthrough decade of creative innovation in the competitive market of marine electronics.

There is an exciting array of new products now available to mariners which make a fishermen's job both easier and safer, but two stand out as major advancements.

Are you tired of searching for your tide table? Try a Krieger tidal chronometer on for size. This sophisticated instrument looks just like a wrist-watch, and does double as a precision timepiece. But it is also designed to tell you the present

state of the tides, and how long until the next high or low tide at just the touch of a button. It even duplicates the shape of the moon, and is completely weather-proof.

For more information about this amazing "tidal chronometer" call the Krieger Watch Corporation at 1-800-441-8433.

The Alden Company has a new marine fax machine called the Marinfax TR-IV which prints "Navtex" emergency weather bulletins as soon as they are released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Navtex is a new national information service available to mariners through their on-board fax machines. Emergency Navtex bulletins with priority announcement include storm warnings, fog warnings, search-and-rescue information, coast guard announcements and changes in the placement of navigational aids.

Non-emergency messages available to fishermen on the Marinfax include general weather reports and oceanographic charts.

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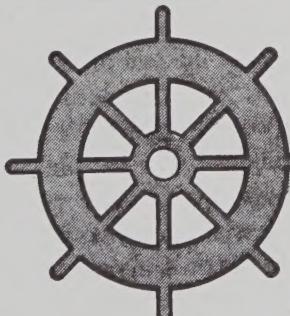
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1989 Fall season silver catch up, price down

Good News and Bad News

Lower Columbia River gillnetters reeled in their second-largest coho (silver) catch in nearly twenty years, but were paid less than half of last year's price for their catch during a series of late-fall fishing periods September 17 through November 15.

Gillnetters earned \$10 million less for their efforts this year compared with last season — a total of \$3.4 million was paid this year, down from \$13.2 million in 1988.

"There's good news and bad news," said Steve King, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist. "The chinook landings were down, and the value per pound was only one-third compared with last year," he added. ODFW estimates that 88,500 chinook and 351,400 coho were netted on the main stem of the Lower Columbia this year, compared with 242,200 and 311,100 caught last year.

Gillnetters also caught 2,500 white sturgeon, 1,200 green sturgeon and 700 chum salmon this year, while they caught 3,100, 1,000 and 2,400, respectively, in 1988.

Similar things happened on Youngs Bay this year — fishermen there had pulled in just 5,800 chinook salmon and 25,200 coho when the season ended Halloween night, down from 19,700 chinook and 51,200 silvers caught last season. The \$200,000 value of the Youngs Bay catch was also proportionately down from last year's \$1.5 million.

Gillnetters received an average of only about 70 cents per pound for upriver bright fall chinook salmon this year, and about 86 cents per pound for coho, significantly down from the \$2.25 paid in 1988 for both species. Twenty-five cents per pound was paid for lower Columbia "tules" this season.

Fish processors in the area cited everything from large reserves of frozen salmon, to a glut of salmon on the world market, to increased imports of farm-raised fish as reasons for the sharp decline in fish price.

Most Columbia River gillnetters sat out the first week of early-fall fishing in August, rejecting a price offer of just 50 cents per pound.

See page 24-25 for complete 1989 harvest results

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Enhancement Act protects resource

An on-going program designed to restore fish hatcheries and improve natural fish production has spawned the construction of 24 new fish-rearing pens on Youngs Bay.

The Restoration and Enhancement Act, signed by Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt last summer, was created to prevent the continued deterioration of our aging state salmon and trout hatcheries, while also seeking opportunities to expand natural fish populations on the Columbia and its tributaries.

Goldschmidt calls the program "good news for the million-plus people who fish in our state — and for those in the (commercial) fishing industry, a vital part of our economy."

Funds for the program come from increases in fee and license applications and renewals for both commercial and sport fishermen.

The increases, which took effect January 1 of this year, include a \$75 cost for a commercial troll permit, up from \$10; \$75 for a gillnet permit, up from \$1 and a salmon poundage fee raise from 5 cents to 10 cents per pound.

An additional \$1.75 million is also allocated for the program from state lottery money.

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Fish from farms: what it's coming to

SPRINGFIELD — A coho salmon ocean ranching business has faced the reality of a shortfall of nearly 70 percent from its expected return, and is converting the ranch to a fish farm.

OreAqua, Inc. is abandoning its ranching operation here, as well as its catch-and-release facility on Yaquina Bay in Newport.

According to Dick Severson, General Manager of Alleco Financing Corporation which is assisting OreAqua with emergency financial aid, foreign driftnet fishing fleets on the high seas are unquestionably responsible for the substantial shortcomings in the 1989 fall coho run.

Severson has photographs of the typical returning coho this year: the vast majority unmistakably display the scarring cross-marks which are quite distinct on fish which have escaped the 30-mile-long monofilament nets of Asian driftnet fishermen.

Also, the average size of 1989 fish arriving at the OreAqua facility are about 20 percent smaller than the five preceding years — half the weight they should be. Severson says this is clear evidence that the Asians are after the larger salmon.

In 1985-1988, an average of 145,000 coho returned to OreAqua's Yaquina Bay facility, but just 31,700 made it back in 1989. In those four years, about 2.6 per-

cent of the smolts released by the company returned as adult salmon. But last year just 0.85 percent returned, the poorest year yet.

In response to this decline, Severson adds, OreAqua is implementing a salmon farming program "which entails intensive culture of coho salmon in land-based rearing ponds." As pen-rearing reduces the size of the fish and increases the cost of raising them, a move toward smaller specialty salmon products rather than a bulk commodity is called for.

OreAqua is currently producing and marketing a variety of specialty salmon products such as alder-smoked salmon, cold-smoked lox and individual salmon fillets through a number of Oregon seafood processors.

"We've got to do more of it to survive," Severson suggests. And developing a strong, effective marketing approach is one of the key steps the company must take, he adds. Severson will consult with the Oregon Agricultural Council in developing an approach.

Other sources of income OreAqua is considering is raising salmon smolts via a contract with the state or the Bonneville Power Administration, which is required by law to lessen the damage its hydroelectric dams have done to commercial and recreational fisheries on the Columbia

River.

OreAqua owns and operates the largest fish hatchery on the Pacific Coast, and takes credit for one out of every eight salmon caught with a net or a hook.

But, this year OreAqua plans to release just 500,000 smolts — down from an average of 12 million. 1990 will surely bring important measures to curtail the clear root of the problem: High Seas Asian Driftnet Fishermen.

Joining with the governors of five western states as well as the premier of British Columbia to form the North Pacific Driftnet Declaration, Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt strongly urged for the reduction and banning of driftnet fishing in a news conference late last year:

"The state of Oregon and the federal government have spent millions of dollars to restore and enhance (Columbia River) fish runs because of the large economic benefits to our citizens and nation. Foreign high seas driftnetters, which are largely unregulated and unmonitored, are taking a substantial number of American salmon and steelhead."

This group joins the South Pacific Tarawa Declaration, which also bans drift-netting within its 200-mile limit.

Related story on Page 28



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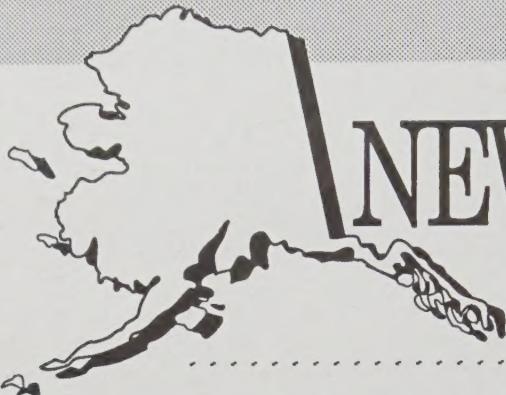
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NEWS from the NORTH

The king salmon that got away was a-swimming in the Kenai River this past summer until Bob Ploeger, a 63-year-old fisherman from Minnesota, dropped his hook.

Ploeger probably was not prepared for the ensuing battle with the king-sized salmon, which lasted over 37 hours, and set a world record for fish-fighting on a hook. But his efforts were to no avail, as the estimated 100-pound king broke loose just before being scooped up in a dipnet.

Playing down the effects of the oil spill on the Alaska environment, Exxon has said that reports of the "decimation" of the Alaskan bald eagle population have been greatly exaggerated.

Despite many reports citing much higher numbers, R.L. Mastracchio, technical manager of Exxon's Alaska operations in Anchorage, says just 152 of the estimated 5000 Alaskan eagles residing in Prince William Sound were killed by the spill.

But what of the oil in Bristol Bay? Although there's a temporary halt on all oil exploration in pristine, fish-rich Bristol Bay thanks to a convincing fight from the state's government, Alaskans may still be in for an even bigger fight with the large oil companies who hold leases from the Department of Interior, which will just about ensure them exploration permission sometime in the future.

Bristol Bay is the center of a \$2 billion-a-year commercial fishery.

Bristol Bay crabber gets biggest fine

The largest fine ever given to a commercial fishing violator in the state of Alaska has been handed down to a Bristol Bay king crabber.

The Seattle-based *Discovery*, owned by Robert Haerling of North Powder, Oregon, delivered 10,600 top-quality Alaskan king crab worth more than \$275,000 to a Kodiak processor late last year, saying they were caught in the Adak district.

But, investigations by the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game revealed the crab were actually caught in the closed waters of Bristol Bay.

Comparing tissue samples of Adak king crab with that of the *Discovery*'s catch, a Southern Illinois University laboratory determined that they did not match.

Just last month, an Alaska Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection patrol vessel searching Bristol Bay found one of the *Discovery*'s abandoned pots with plenty of live crab still in it.

Haerling has agreed to pay civil damages of \$530,000.

Cruise ships to visit new hatchery

JUNEAU — A new \$6.5-million fish hatchery has opened here, and will raise more than 162 million salmon per year.

The Gastineau salmon hatchery, located just outside of downtown Juneau, has been designed to welcome and accommodate some 4,000 visitors a day.

Hatchery visitors from around the world will enjoy close-up views of the salmon holding pools, as well as a huge glass viewing window focused at the thousands of mature salmon attempting the fish ladder. A first-hand look at incubators holding millions of

eggs can also be obtained.

Interpretive exhibits and displays of the hatchery process and the salmon industry will be shown to visitors too, as well as a well-stocked gift shop and snack bar which serves tempting salmon hors d'oeuvres.

Princess Tours has signed an agreement with hatchery officials, and the "love boats" will be stopping at the hatchery on their regular Alaskan sight-seeing excursions.

Plans for 1991 include a fishing pier where visiting anglers can try their luck.

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More than 25,000 salmon have died

Clear-cut Forests: Are They Responsible?

MORE THAN 25,000 salmon have died this past summer in sun-baked Alaskan spawning streams which have been clear-cut by loggers, according to Alaska state biologists.

Gary Gunstrom, the organizer of a task force which has been studying the effects of logging on spawning streams in Alaska since January, 1989, says there is a direct correlation between the deaths of the salmon and clear-cut forests.

According to Gunstrom, when trees are cut down along a spawning stream, the shade is greatly reduced, and runoff is significantly slowed. And, with a combination of this and the abnor-

mally dry weather conditions which were present this summer, water levels and the oxygen supply are dangerously depleted.

Mike Lunn, area supervisor for the Tongass National Forest service in Ketchikan, says his agency has stopped all streamside logging within 25 to 100 feet of spawning streams.

Gunstrom cited a direct example of the effects of clearcutting: In Trocedero Creek in southeast Alaska, 2,000 pink salmon died in a stream along a clear-cut area. In a fork of the same creek just 500 yards away where no clearcutting was done, no fish deaths were reported.

If you can't stop 'em, sell it to 'em...

THAT SEEKS to be the motto of Alaska Gov. Steve Cowper, who has decided to begin trade with Taiwan, and has opened a trade office in Taipei to push the sale of Alaska products to the Taiwanese.

Although Taiwan actively engages in illegal poaching on the high seas, it needs timber, energy and seafood, "all of which we have in abundance," says Cowper.

"Taiwan is one of the most rapidly developing Far East Nations, and is a major potential market for Alaska," Cowper adds.

So, as of October, 1989, you will find a sales and promotion office of Alaska

products inside the Taipei World Trade Center. The office, which will be staffed by Li Chen, a trade specialist in the Governor's Office of International Trade in Anchorage, will provide new business propositions, promote tourism to Alaska, as well as attract new business investment and development.

The office joins Alaskan foreign trade agencies already in place in Tokyo and Seoul.

Alaska exports have increased 136 percent from 1966 to 1987. Exports in 1989 soared over \$100 million, mostly fish, timber, oil and petroleum products.

ANCHORAGE — Although the predictions are admittedly early, the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game says 1990 will be only an average year for Bristol Bay gillnetters.

The forecast, released in mid-October, predicts a total run of 26.7 million red salmon will enter the five districts in 1990, compared to the well over 44 million which arrived last season.

A combined harvest of just a bit over 14.5 million is expected this summer, which historically figures about average for Bristol Bay catches. Last year's catch was 28.7 million reds, second only to 1983.

Once again, the Naknek/Kvichak district is expected to be the top producer in 1990, with an estimated catch approaching 6 million, down from 14.3 million in 1989, with a predicted run of 13 million, down from 24 million.

Egegik will do with a 4.6 million catch and a 5.6 million run, about half last year's take, while Ugashik fishermen will net 2.4 million salmon from a 3.1 million run, also down from last year.

The Nushagak and Togiak districts will net just 1.7 million and 200,000 sockeye, respectively.

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Dams making fish runs extinct

continued

Ten years and \$1 billion later, many say the council's efforts — the country's largest ever to save a natural resource — have fallen short of the mark.

Historically, nearly half of the Columbia's run of salmon and steelhead used to spawn in the state of Idaho, but in 1989, 70 percent of the returning stock of 2.8 million fish were hatchery-bred. It's the disappearance of wild stocks that have biologists worried.

And there's more to be concerned about.

In 1984, three years after the National Marine Fisheries Service decided not to protect the Snake River coho run, it went extinct. The Snake River fall chinook run is also at the brink of extinction. Whenever another wild run disappears, the Columbia's fish populations grow weaker, and could collapse. Maybe not next year, but in generations to come.

"Unless we preserve these (wild) fish, important gene pools will be lost forever, and instead of the mighty, wily salmon, we will be left with (hatchery) fish wimps," says Norma Paulus, member of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Science has pinpointed quite subtle genetic changes which are present in hatchery fish that, over several generations, could cost them their instinctive drive to survive in the wild.

Net mending exhibit on display at museum

ASTORIA — A unique display of the art of net mending is being presented weekends in the great hall of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Mrs. Georgia Maki devotes most of her weekends to provide the creative showing of the technique used in net mending and knitting, which may someday be a lost art.

The display, given to Salmon for All as a gift from the Butch Peterson family, also shows the museum visitor the many different types of nets used by the Columbia River fisherman, with a visual presentation.

The Columbia River Maritime Museum, one of the largest museums of its kind and a must for the North Coast Traveler, is visited by more than 90,000 people per year.



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Illegal salmon market on rise

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Marine Fisheries Service has released information confirming that canneries in the Philippines, Malaysia and China are joining the Asians in peddling salmon to European traders which was unlawfully caught on the high seas.

Federal agents say that thousands of tons of illegal salmon are being offered to brokers in France and the United Kingdom at prices which are reportedly 20- to 30-percent lower than similar products caught in the USA.

And the product is becoming more and more popular.

One report has buyers in the UK importing 241 metric tons of canned salmon from the Philippines alone in 1988, and even more in 1989. Sixty-one tons were purchased from China in 1989, the most ever.

A spokesperson from the NMFS says that it's likely the Philippine and Chinese fish was canned from Pacific salmon illegally harvested by the Asian fishing fleet, which includes fishermen from Japan, Taiwan and Korea.

It was also indicated that a Malaysian company was selling canned pink salmon to French brokers at \$38 per carton, nearly \$20 below what similar American products sell for in Europe. "This is the cheapest salmon offered this season," said the spokesperson. It was believed to be the first time that a Malaysian firm had offered canned salmon to the world market.

But hardly the last.

American commercial fishermen have long been pushing for a crackdown on high-seas driftnetters, who pose as squid fishermen, but sweep the seas of many forms of marine life including the prized Alaska salmon.

The Bush administration has been reluctant to discourage its Japanese interests, and recently-signed treaties have been limiting.

Let's talk about Snag Pulling

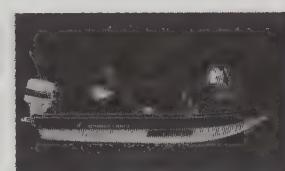
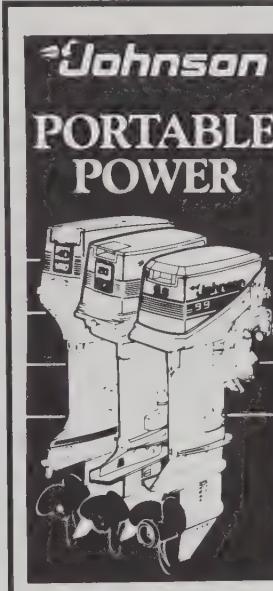
Many Columbia River fishermen are enjoying fishing in waters free of snags. The waters are clear because a few fishermen, usually the same, have taken the time to remove the snags to reduce gear damage.

We hire divers, make new snag nets, and apply to the state for snag permits. We also have set up a Lower River Snag fund at the Astoria First Interstate Bank, under the signatures of Phil Johnson and Don Riswick. We ask fishermen from Tongue Point to the bar to pay \$50 per year in dues, tax deductible.

It is unfair for a few fishermen to shoulder the responsibility of keeping the lower river clear of snags, and our program cannot continue without your help. Many fishermen have never been out snagging, so here's a chance to contribute.

On page 30 is a special clipout to send in your dues. Don't put it off any longer — join the "snag club" today.

ATTENTION YOUNG RIVER FISHERMEN: A snag fund has also been started for your fishery. Fish buyers have receipt books to take the \$20 yearly dues.



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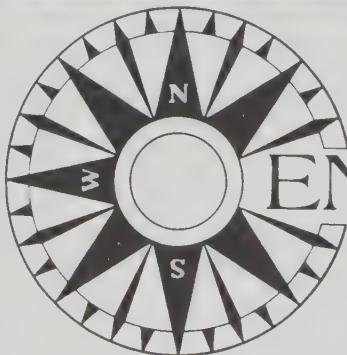
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Dioxin: Is It a Threat?

Timber Industry tells us not to worry

PORLAND — Although an Oregon environmentalist group says a study by the Environmental Protection Agency reveals higher-than-anticipated levels of dioxin, the Northwest Pulp & Paper Association has spent nearly one-half million dollars on a study which says Columbia River fish are safe to eat.

But many questions and concerns remain, as experts claim this study was both inaccurate and incomplete, as it failed to sample fish from reported dioxin concentration areas on the river, and also failed to examine skin and fatty tissues where dioxin is known to accumulate.

However, the Eugene-based Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides obtained a report from the EPA in December via the Freedom of Information Act which paints a slightly different picture. (There were no plans to release the study results to the public until this rare action was taken.)

The EPA study, taken by a University of Wisconsin laboratory, reveals that dioxin levels taken from Columbia River fish downstream from pulp mills are higher than ever — up to ten times the level last reported.

"(The fish) are at levels which represent threats to human health and the environment," says Robert Burd, acting deputy regional administrator of the Water Quality Division of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Samples were taken last spring from various Columbia River carp, sturgeon, whitefish, catfish, crayfish and dungeness crab. The highest reported level of dioxin was taken from a carp near a Boise Cascade paper mill at Wallula, Wash., on the Columbia about 15 miles south of Pasco.

Although currently admittedly low and concentrating in parts of the fish not typically eaten, the level of dioxin will continue to rise unless steps are taken now to lessen the long-term effects of this chemical, known to cause cancer.

Burd is strongly urging the EPA, the states of Oregon and Washington and the pulp and paper industry to take these steps now to stop this cancer-causing risk released into our waterways.

State Senator Dick Springer has said that he will introduce legislation which would mandate such reduction if changes aren't made soon.

In October of last year, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission rejected an application from WTD Industries for a permit to dump "industrial waste" into the Columbia from a proposed \$450 million bleached kraft pulp mill at Port Westward near Clatskanie. And, refusing to loosen our state's water pollution regulations was unquestionably the right move.

But WTD officials are not giving up, and plan to appeal the decision.

There are currently seven pulp mills on the Columbia and its tributaries which use the chlorine bleaching process: at Wauna, St. Helens and Halsey, Oregon; Longview, Camas and Wallula, Washington, and at Lewiston, Idaho.

One thing is certainly clear: we cannot afford to continue to contaminate our food fish (and our waterways) with toxic chemicals which may endanger the public health just to make our paper white.

Our livelihood depends upon the swift action of our lawmakers to curtail the outpouring of these effluents, and we will continue to push toward this goal.

Students don't want dioxin-laced milk

EUGENE — Students at two major Oregon High Schools have decided they don't want to drink the milk they are served at lunchtime, and may have an Oregon law to back them up.

According to the rule, Oregon's school lunch programs must be "free from toxic chemicals," and the student groups from South Eugene High School and Lincoln High School in Portland, along with the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, are seeking the immediate enforcement of this policy issued by the State Board of Education.

The milk cartons, commonly made of bleached paper, are tainted with dioxin, the well-known effluent of the bleached kraft paper mills in the Northwest.

"The Oregon rule is even stronger than federal law," says John Bonine, environmental attorney for the five-state coalition. "It does not only ban toxic substances when they are at 'detectable' levels. It flatly prohibits any toxic substances."

Dioxin is one of the most toxic substances known to man, and, in large doses causes cancer.

Recent studies done by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (and other sources) have found detectable levels of chlorinated dioxins in the milk packaged in white paper cartons.

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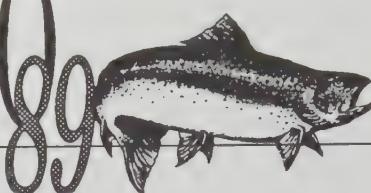
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FISH EXPO '90



SEATTLE — More than 30,000 people from over twenty countries gathered in five Seattle Center exhibition halls in October to attend the biggest-ever Fish Exposition.

Some 800 exhibitors proudly showed off their latest and most fashionable wares, everything from new boats to new electronics to new marine computers to new nets.

One of the stars of the show was Furuno's new high-tech FCR-1411 MkII high-resolution radar, which features an electronically-digitized color 14-inch screen which can be viewed by several people at once, without side-to-side blurring.

Other major manufacturers represented at the Expo were Freeman, Raytheon, Delta Marine, Mathers Controls, Redden, Capilano, Samson, Alaska Diesel Electric, Marco and many others.

Local businesses present at the Expo included Englund Marine Supply, Hydraulic Marine Equipment Co. and Astoria Marine Supply. Salmon for All also represented the Lower Columbia River fishery with a popular display.

Next year, the off-year Pacific Marine Expo '90, scheduled for November 29-December 1, will take place in the downtown Seattle Convention Center, but you'll have to travel to Boston to attend the big Fish Expo '90. 

A Sailing We Will Go...

OCTOBER 28, 1989 marked an historic event on the North Coast, as the turn-of-the-century sailing Columbia River gillnetter recreated by two local craftsmen was dipped into the cold waters of the mighty Columbia.

Built without plans or drawings by Ron Baldwin and Dave Green, the sailing gillnetter project, which spanned more than six month's time, has been overseen by

the Columbia River Maritime Museum. The gillnetter was built at the old Burlington Northern train depot, now owned by the museum, along the Astoria waterfront.

The gillnetter will spend much of its time proudly displayed at the museum, but will also participate in wooden boat shows, as well as waterfront parades and celebrations such as the Astoria Regatta.

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BUSH DOESN'T WANT POWER TO PUNISH HIGH-SEAS DRIFTNETTERS

The "kinder, gentler" president, running true to form, is opposing a bill which would give him the power to penalize high-seas Asian fishermen who literally sweep the seas of many forms of life, including salmon and steelhead bound for U.S. waters.

President Bush says he'll have nothing to do with the bill, introduced by Alaska Rep. Don Young. The proposed legislation would allow Bush to impose sanctions on any and all products which originate from the countries involved in the poaching, such as Japan, Taiwan and Korea.

This would include just about everything from Sony televisions, radios and VCR's to Toyota Corollas. Presently, he can place embargoes only on fish products.

But Bush is typically clinging to his pro-foreign trade policies, and is once again ignoring strong encouragement from commercial fishermen and their interests.

The Fishermen's News might be right. 1992 would be an excellent year to send George back to his East Coast sport fishing pursuits.

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- (1) 60 md x 7 3/4" x 1.5 x 9 Nagaura, 12 lbs
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- (4) 60 md x 8 1/2" x 1.5 x 10 Fitec, 3 pcs. @11 lbs each, 1 pc. 5 lbs, lt green
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- (4) 65 md x 7 7/8" x CR20 Momoi, 81 lbs each, sil. blue
- (1) 65 md x 7 7/8" x 1.5 x 10 Momoi, 32 lbs, lt. green
- (3) 65 md x 8" x 8 x 3 Nichimo, 79 lbs each, color NG9
- (1) 65 md x 8" x 1.5 x 4 Fitec, 47.5 lbs, color NN75
- (1) 65 md x 8" x CR20 Momoi, 98 lbs, lt green
- (2) 70 md x 7 3/4" x 1.5 x 8 Fitec, 52 & 44 lbs, sil. blue
- (6) 70 md x 7 7/8" x 1.5 x 8 Momoi, 50 lbs, 4/NG2, 2/SB
- (1) 70 md x 7 7/8" x 7 x 3 Nichimo, 84 lbs, color NG9
- (2) 70 md x 8" x 8 x 3, 209 lbs each, panelled
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- (2) 70 md x 8" x 8 x 3 Nichimo, 84 lbs each, NG9

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Experimental Fishery a Success

by David Harlan

Fishery officials are calling an experimental small-boat commercial salmon troll fishery off the mouth of the Columbia River a success.

Jim Martin, head of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fish Division, said the season stands a chance of becoming an annual event — if most of the coho salmon taken during the fishery prove to be from Columbia River hatcheries and not from Washington and Puget Sound coastal streams in which salmon stocks are depressed.

"What we still have to evaluate is what kind of fish were they catching in terms of coded wire tag information," said Laimon Osis, a Newport-based ODFW biologist. Tiny wire tags are inserted in the snouts of many hatchery-reared coho fingerlings before they are released. An analysis of the tags collected from fish landed during the fishery has yet to be concluded.

Trollers landed an estimated 35,000 coho and 3,000 Chinook salmon during a season that began August 21 and ended September 10. The fishery was limited to the area between Tillamook Head south of Seaside and Leadbetter Point at the northern tip of Washington's Long Beach peninsula, Osis said. The season shut down August 22-23 so biologists could evaluate the first day's catch before reopening Aug-

ust 24.

The red buoy line off the tip of the Columbia River south jetty was the fishery's original northern boundary. That boundary was pushed north to Leadbetter Point after the August 21 opening when Washington trollers wanted to get in on the action. Their involvement may have boosted the number of coho taken from depressed Washington stocks during the fishery.

"From what I hear, you could call the fishery a success," Osis said. "Apparently some of the local fishermen were satisfied with it, and that's part of the bottom line."

Most of the landings were made in the Astoria area, with fishermen fetching between \$1.10 and \$1.35 per pound for coho, an average \$2.35 per pound for medium-sized Chinook and as much as \$2.70 per pound for large Chinook.

The season was designed for small boats leaving port and returning in a single day, as opposed to larger craft that venture to sea for several days. Trollers were limited to landing no more than 40 coho and eight Chinook daily.

"I think that when you have situations where we have relatively small numbers of coho for the quota, this kind of fishery makes sense," Martin said. ♦

Fishermen's advisory Committee formed

SALEM — Seven representatives of Oregon's commercial fishing industry have been appointed to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's new Commercial Fishermen Advisory Committee.

It is the first such forum of its kind to be put in place in Oregon, specifically designed to present the concerns of the fishermen to state and federal fishery managers.

North Coast commercial fishermen Bob Williams and Nick Rusinovich, both of Astoria, and Roger Jolma of Clatskanie have been named to the newly-formed committee, as well as fishermen Scott Boley of Gold Beach, R. Barry Fisher of South Beach, Michael Jones of Seal Rock and Tom Shafer of Newport, the chairman of the panel.

Jon Englund, owner of Englund Marine Supply of Astoria and Ilwaco, WA., and Bob Jacobson, an Oregon State University Sea Grant agent, were picked as ex-officio members.

The advisory committee is also urging Oregon's congressional delegation to reauthorize the Magnuson Act, which would allocate federal funds for the protection of commercial fisheries in offshore waters.

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“WORK IS OUR JOY” HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The historic, colorful story of the dauntless Columbia River gillnetter has been captured and preserved in a 30-minute documentary, “Work is our Joy: The Story of the Columbia River Gillnetter.”

A combined effort of Oregon State University Sea Grant extension agent Jim Bergeron, author Irene Martin, and Columbia River Maritime Museum employees Hobe Kytr and Michael McCusker, the slide/tape presentation thoughtfully presents the Columbia River gillnet fisherman from his humble beginnings in the 1800's to the present. It is thought to be the only audio/visual presentation exclusively on the Columbia River gillnetter.

Premiering December 10 at the museum, the show drew rave reviews from the gatherers. The sound quality of the

outdoor interviews was excellent, thanks to a Swiss tape recorder provided by the American Folk Life Center of the Library of Congress in Washington DC. Considered the standard of in-the-field tape recorders, the recorder allowed the screeching of seagulls and the pounding of the waves to be clearly captured.

It is the third oral history documentary to be produced by Portland filmmaker Larry Johnson which remembers early life in the Northwest — the first about Uniontown (Astoria) and the second on life in early Clatsop County logging camps.

“Work is our Joy” is available at the CRFPU office or the Columbia River Maritime Museum for \$25.00.



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Waves from the Past: Salmon, Storms & Lighthouses

Charles Hornung, head keeper at Tillamook Rock lighthouse, came up on the *Manzanita* yesterday. He reports stormy weather at the rock. The month of November was remarkably fine, but with December came terrible weather from the southeast. On the 16th the storm seemed to culminate in a severity unequaled in his four year's experience. On the morning of that day, the sea rose in solid masses of water and seizing three water tanks, each 4x4x8 feet and solidly constructed, broke and carried them away. Those tanks were 90 feet above the sea. Later on the water grew still rougher, a wall of water broke against the rock and rose far above, striking the light, which was 143 feet in height, and falling solidly on the roof. Solid to strike and liquid to drown, tons of water flew up in the air and fell with a crash as of a hundred hammers again and again on the roof of the lighthouse. It cracked, the joists crushing in and admitting the water. The light trembled and the solid iron stanchions bent with the force of the blows. "For about a quarter of an hour," says Keeper Hornung, "it looked mighty scary." Everything was afloat, and tables, chairs, etc., swimming about, the water thundered on the roof and poured in torrents through the rents its weight had made; chimneys disappeared, outhouses disappeared, and it seemed as though the end of all things had come as far as the Tillamook Rock lighthouse was concerned. When, suddenly, at the very height of the fury of the storm, the force of the waves abated, greatly to the relief of the keeper and his assistants, who essayed to repair damages.

The next day the surface of the ocean was as calm and smiling as the placid bosom of a sun-lit lake, and a skiff could cross to the mainland. Upon his return the keeper will take a force of men with him to make some much needed repairs.

William Arnold has been gunning for sea lions of late at Tillamook, and with good success, having already 246. The bodies of these huge beasts blown ashore lined the shore for miles. While others have been writing letters about fish wheels, traps and pound nets, Mr. Arnold has taken his little gun and done good practical work for the preservation of our salmon interests and salmon nets. The sea lion was doubtlessly created for some useful purpose, probably to prevent salmon from becoming too numerous. Before salmon fishing became a business here they no doubt played their part well, but now that the people of the world are hungering for our salmon, it would seem as if the sea lion's day of usefulness has passed. Vast numbers of them congregate at Tillamook Rock, and at Seal Rocks, a few miles south and near the shore where they live at their ease and prey upon the shoals of salmon entering the Columbia. It is estimated that half the salmon which come into the Columbia in the early part of the season are captured by sea lions which also damage nets to the amount of thousands of dollars. If the cannerymen would make some move for the destruction of the sea lions, they need not worry about a salmon hatchery for awhile. A few men with good rifles, stationed at Tillamook Rock, Seal Rocks, and other haunts of the animals, if there are any others, could kill a great many and perhaps drive the herds away to some other place. Perhaps a few dynamite cartridges might be utilized in destroying a large number of the sea lions if placed on their favorite rocks. It would not be an expensive or difficult task if the cannerymen or the state would undertake it. A bounty placed upon sea lion scalps would soon make them scarce.

Remembering a Bygone Era

Taken from a special 1946 50th Anniversary Commemorative Brochure of the Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company

Fifty years ago two hundred fishermen on the Oregon shore of the Columbia resolved to can the Royal Chinook they caught in their nets.

These fishermen were the founders of our company. They organized the Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company in 1896 in order to assure themselves of a fair return for their fish and to provide the consuming public the best in canned salmon.

This cooperative enterprise was established in troubled times. The future of the industry appeared uncertain. Our founders risked their savings and their labor, convinced that their undertaking would return for his salmon and it would offer to the consumer a fine product.

Fishermen had just ended a disastrous strike against fish prices they deemed too low. In the thirty years of salmon canning on the Columbia up to 1896, inferior fish had been sold to the public under the fancy spring chinook label. It was the fishermen who paid the ultimate cost of debasing the Royal Chinook label because the public lost confidence and was unwilling to pay the premium price for the best salmon.

Associated in the establishment of The Company were far-sighted men who had the general welfare of the Columbia's great industry at heart. Among these leaders was Sofus Jensen, secretary of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union in 1896. He was also the leading spokesman for conservation of fisheries resources in which he was aided by fishermen, the public and broad-minded packers.

On October 12, 1896, inspired promoters of the fishermen's hope for a better day on the Columbia proposed to incorporate under the name of The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company and elected the following as incorporators: Sofus Jensen, Anton Christ, Ole B. Olsen, J.W. Angberg and Anton Bang.

The charter members on January 8, 1897, elected as their first board of directors Charles Wilson, Sofus Jensen, John Ostrom, Ole B. Olsen, J.B. Nice, A.E. Minard, Anton Christ, J.W. Angberg and Matt Raistakka.

J.B. Nice was named president of the board, but was soon succeeded by Charles Wilson. Mr. Nice was unable to attend meetings. Mr. Jensen was named manager and secretary. Frans Kankkonen, builder of the company's cannery, became cannery superintendent.

With their savings for capital, our founders entered into the highly competitive salmon packing industry of the Columbia. On January 16, 1897, the company purchased the site for the cannery, which was about 50 by 200 feet. Building of the net racks was done without charge by stockholders. They received \$1.50 a day.

They were eager and capable craftsmen. Many had



The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company as it stood in 1946.

been raised in Scandinavia and Finland where they had learned trades under masters. All were imbued with the cooperative movement then taking root in Western Europe. They had acquired a practical understanding of what it means to run a cooperative successfully.

Each fisherman received, not so much for each fish he delivered, but his share of the company's proceeds. Hence strikes for higher fish prices were hoped to be eliminated. In time stockholders retired and many have died, and non-members joined the company's fishing fleet, but much of the cooperative spirit remains.

Active in the new cannery were the outstanding fishermen on the Columbia. Mr. Wilson, president, had been a boat builder in Finland, before he came to Astoria in 1880. He built fish boats and tenders during the winters. He improved the design of the sailing gillnetter, making it more seaworthy. He served as president until ill health forced him to retire in 1915. His brother, Frans Kankkonen, was superintendent and later, manager.

Among the two hundred founders were men who knew the art of canning salmon. Frank Norberg was first salmon cook, a particularly responsible and painstaking job in pioneer days of the industry.

J.W. Angberg had broad experience in cannery operation and held various positions until he became superintendent, including first and second vice president. He remained at the plant until retiring in 1932.

The patriarch of Columbia River packers, Tom Nelson was a charter member and early fisherman of the company. He was secretary from 1901 until 1906. He became manager in 1914 and directed the packing operations of the firm through the First World War until 1921.

It was a proud moment on the morning of April 11, 1897, when one-hundred ninety-one sailing gillnet boats tacked in to the new cannery loaded with salmon. Packing of fish was done by Chinese who received 34 cents for talls and 39 cents for flats.

Cannery machinery was of pioneer type. Most of



Uppertown Station

the work was still done by hand. Cans were run through solder machines for sealing. Since vacuum machines had not been invented, the cans were heated in retorts and steam was released by punching holes in the tops. Then the tops were sealed again with solder.

Quality of the new cannery's pack and its high standard of grading salmon aided in marketing its product despite aggressive competition. In 1902 part of the first pack was offered for sale to Everding & Farrell of Portland, and the Manchester Cooperative Wholesale System of Manchester, England. One carload was consigned through the Astoria Savings Bank to Chicago.

Two labels, "Gillnetters Best" and "Cooperators Best" were purchased. They have established themselves as leading brands of the finest Columbia River salmon. Later, other labels such as "Golden Anchor," "Lightship" and "Southern Beauty" were adopted.

The Company announced its prices for the season's pack on April 29, 1899 at \$1.25 for talls, \$1.40 for flats and 80 cents for halves.

Early on the Company looked after the needs of its gillnet fishermen. They brought in all its salmon until the time of the First World War when trollers began to deliver salmon to us. Receiving stations were built on the Columbia. In 1900, property at the foot of thirty-first street was purchased for a receiving station, net racks and storage warehouse.

In the third year the Company began mild curing salmon, a major phase of Astoria's fisheries when salmon were abundant.

Construction of a cold storage building of 1200 tons capacity was authorized by the board of directors in 1903. Alex Yrell, a charter member, was engaged as salmon splitter and later as cold storage superintendent. Already the Company had shipped on July 13, 1903, 50 tierces of salmon and six tierces of salmon heads to buyers in Helsinki.



Wallace Station, near Clatskanie

In better years the mild cure pack reached 1400 tierces. Frans Kankkonen made a trip to Europe in 1904 in the interest of the mild cure trade, opening up new markets in Germany, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

Frans Kankkonen, the cannery's first superintendent, became manager in 1902, and again assumed superintendency in 1903. The office of general manager, which eliminated dual control of the company's affairs by the manager and superintendent, was established in 1907. Kankkonen was appointed as the first general manager, and remained until retiring in 1913.

Mild cured salmon from the new plant was sold in 1905 to K.A. Jensen of Norway and Carlson & Weslin of Sweden. The following year German companies bought the Company's pack of mild cured salmon. Various other salmon brokers from around the world followed.

Charles Anet, secretary of the corporation since 1914, joined the company as bookkeeper in 1903. He has been in the service of the Company longer than any other employee. Mr. Anet went to Europe in 1908 to examine twine manufacturing in Hamburg, Germany, which was of much interest to fishermen.

After the First World War the Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company extended its operations to the coast, Grays Harbor and up the Columbia. A cannery and cold storage, built in Wheeler, Ore., were operated through the war and sold in 1921. A new office and supply room were built in Astoria. For kippering salmon, the Company built a smokehouse, also in Astoria.

The Company financed the Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company at Aberdeen, Wash., and built a warehouse at South Bend. Our fishermen took their boats for fall fishing on the Chehalis River. A receiving station was provided on Puget Island.

The expansion continued. The Company financed many cooperative packing companies from 1912-1914.



Willow Grove Station, near Longview



Smith Point Station

Management of the Company returned to the Kankkonen family on February 10, 1921, when Frithiof Kankkonen, who had supervised construction of the plant at Wheeler, was named manager. The Aberdeen operations were sold in September, 1922 in the short period of adjustment after the war. A station was erected at Mayger in 1927 and a warehouse for fishermen at Brownsmead.

No crisis in the history of the industry compares with that of the collapse of the stock market in 1929. The only investment that paid dividends for the Company during the Depression was the conservative management of its affairs in preceding years.

Refusing to weaken the market, the Company held its 1931, 1932, and 1933 packs in warehouses. Thousands of cases were stacked in the Taylor warehouse. In 1932, fancy chinook sold for \$1.25 a dozen; near fancy 75 cents a dozen, and kippered salmon at nine cents a pound. In the wake of these prices came the strike of 1933, which settled at eight cents a pound for salmon.

Three young men in the Company were Arne Juola, with the Company for 30 years, who was appointed superintendent in 1935 upon the retirement of Mr. Angberg; Edward Poysky, sales manager hired in 1933; and Alex Sarpola, who is in charge of the fishermen's department.

Canning of tuna in the Company's new tuna plant, whose construction manager Kankkonen supervised, began in 1938 and is an important part of the Company's fish production.

Sons of the founders, who learned to fish in their father's boats, today are leading fishermen of the Union Company. Among these early gillnetters, a number now dead, are Victor Carlson, son V.O.; J.P. Matta, son Carl; Abram Erickson, son Wayne; John Jackson, sons Alex and Ed; Andrew Kantola, sons Toivo and Rudy. Later fishermen who have sons fishing for the Company are Matt Korpela, (a 20-year board member) sons Emil, Ilmari and Wilho, and grandsons Eldon and Bill; Kalle Koskela, son Uuno, who is second vice president of the Company.

Through the years the Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company has held an important place in the industrial life of this community, its control has largely remained in the hands of the men who caught the salmon that its cannery processed.

President of the Board from 1915 to 1920 was Andrew Olsen. J.E. Penttila, an original stockholder, was president in 1921 until 1924.

The present president of the board is C.O. Moberg, superintendent of Columbia Hospital in Astoria. He fished many seasons for the Company.

Anton Sorensen, present manager, has been vice president and president. He also fished many seasons. Uuno Koskela, one of the Company's leading gillnetters, is second vice president. Henry Reinikka has served as director since 1937. Ilo Penttila became a director in 1944. Another veteran gillnetter board member is Charles Laity.



Fishermen mend net at the main cannery.

Direction of the Company by fishermen management has given the firm practical leadership experience in the competitive enterprise of processing and marketing fish. The Company has been alert to the problems from declining fish runs on the Columbia. It has been devoted to conservation measures, and its fishermen have a deep interest in developing hatchery programs. Biological studies are recommended for rehabilitating fish runs and maintaining those which survived the modern hazards to fish life such as pollution and the construction of dams.

The years have claimed many of our founders. Those who survive have the satisfaction of realising that faith in common effort and a fine product has been justified. For an enterprise built up by 200 fishermen, our company has done well. Since its incorporation it has paid stock dividends of \$343,184.51 and fish profits of \$660,354.36.

And loyalty to the traditions of our founders promises to pay dividends in the future as it has done in the past.

Story and photos courtesy Richard Palo

The Co-op packed fish until 1950, when it was purchased by Peter Pan Seafoods. Eino "Lank" Koskela became superintendent in 1952 until 1983.

Barbey Packing Co. took over in 1975 until 1980, while ownership remained with Peter Pan.

Ted Bugas and Jim Bakken took over management in 1980, until 1983 when the property was sold to the Port of Astoria, which owns it today.



Anton Sorensen



Carl O. Moberg



Arvo Niemi



Uuno Koskela



Charles Anet

1989 RIVER HARVESTS

From the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The 17-day 1989 winter gillnet season was the longest season since 1968. The run was predicted to be 102,000 while the actual run was over 115,000 — the third highest since recording began in 1946. The low prediction was due to an underestimate of 5-year-old fish.

The winter catch was 13,900 chinook, with 10,900 of these Willamette River fish. Although the catch was the third-largest of the 1980's, it was still far below the catch allotment of 21,000. Poor environmental conditions were blamed for the late run.

Sport fishermen caught 29,100 chinook between March and April on the Lower Columbia, the Willamette and the Clackamas.

Catch sharing percentages were still off the mark: sportsters received 73 percent, commercial fishermen 27 percent. (Target is 30:70.)

1989 returns of coho salmon on the Columbia were better than expected. 223,200 early stock and 347,300 late stock were predicted, while 200,000 early and 435,000 late actually returned.

Lower River gillnet catches were 351,400 on the main-stem, (the second highest since 1970), and 25,200 on Youngs Bay, just half of last year's take.

The 1989 Buoy 10 sport catch was 81,600, the third highest in the history of the fishery.

The 1989 jack returns are similar to the returns of 1988, suggesting a 1990 adult run size similar to last year.

The 1989 August fishery on the Columbia was the third consecutive August season in the 1980's. The Compact set the season at four nights, August 7-11, in all five zones, with an 8-inch minimum mesh size below the Longview bridge, and a 9-inch minimum mesh size above the bridge. Two five-night weeks were also given (August 20-25 and August 27-September 1) in Area 2-S, with a nine-inch minimum mesh restriction to allow for steelhead stock protection.

Due to a price dispute, very few fishermen participated in the first 4-night season. The fishermen's strike limited the initial 4-night catch to about 1,900 chinook, compared to a catch expectation as stated in the "Ocean and In-river Agreement" of 25,000 chinook.

Consequently, the Compact allowed two 1-night extensions before the allowable time period ended. Because of the risk of exceeding the catch expectation of 25,000, the two extensions were limited to one night each in zones 3-5, and above the Wauna powerlines. Exceeding this 25,000 expectation would have reduced the Area 2-S fishery, and exceeding the combined catch guideline of 50,000 would have caused a delay or modification of the September 17 opener.

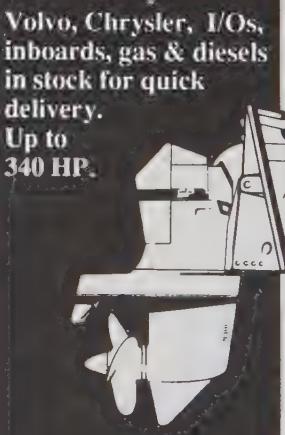
During the extensions, the strike continued, and only about 1,000 additional chinook were caught for a total August 7-15 catch of 2,900, well below the 25,000 catch allotment.

During mid-August, negotiations occurred between fishermen and buyers and the Area 2-S fishery opened August 20-25 and August 27-September 1 for two 5-night openings, with the participation of

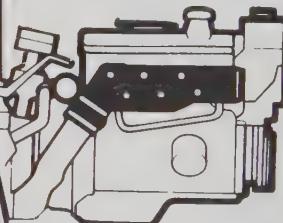
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only about 100 boats, those fishermen possessing a 9-inch minimum gillnet mesh size. The majority of the chinook were delivered to a newly-formed fishermen/processor cooperative where the fishermen's price was to be determined when the fish was sold. Other buyers paid about 75-cents per pound.

After six nights, Area 2-S reached the 25,000 catch guideline, with landings of 24,350 chinook.

The Compact convened the morning prior to the seventh fishing night to consider extending the season in this area, since earlier fisheries had failed to reach the 50,000 catch quota. The staff determined an additional 18,900 fish could be added to this fishery without exceeding the preseason limit.

But, the Compact allowed only one night additional fishing time.

The fishery ended after seven nights, with a catch of 29,800 chinook salmon for a total August non-treaty season catch of 32,700 chinook. A total of 1,840 white sturgeon were landed incidental to the August fisheries with 1,580 taken in Area 2-S.

The Compact adopted the 1989 late fall season in three stages. The first three weeks, September 17-October 6, were established by the September 7 Compact meeting with large sanctuaries at tributary mouths to protect lower river hatchery chinook. The sanctuaries, combined with the delayed opener, were expected to limit the lower river hatchery catch to only 10 percent of the run, as modeled preseason.

The second part of the late fall fishery on the lower Columbia was set at the October 6 Compact meeting, and allowed for five 4-day fishing weeks, October 9-November 10, with small sanctuaries and no sanctuary at Abemathy Creek.

The late stock coho run was estimated to be 190,000, based upon the numbers in the commercial gillnet fishery during the September 17-October 6 period. The 4-day fishing weeks would result in a 75-percent harvest rate on late stock coho, and allowed the minimum 30,000 late stock coho escapement goal to be met.

Following the third week in October it became apparent that the late coho run was later than usual, and larger than was indicated in early October. An update presented on November 9 by the Compact showed the late stock run to be 435,000, the second highest late stock run on record. A final week of three days was added to the fishery.

The Youngs Bay fishery operated for 72 consecutive days, August 20 through Halloween night. Catches totaled 5,830 chinook, (down from the last two years), and 25,200 coho, (about half the 1988 catch). Most of the chinook were caught in August and September, while the coho catch peaked in mid-September to early October.

Because of the reduced catch and lower prices, the ex-vessel value of this fishery was the lowest in several years at \$200,000, compared to \$1.5 million in 1988.

Escapement totals for 1989 Columbia River fall chinook salmon and

steelhead were 96,500 upriver brights over McNary Dam — which more than doubled the 40,000 fish goal.

Washington State programs also met with some surpluses, while the natural-spawning North Lewis River escapement reaching an all-time record high of 23,000.

At the Bonneville Dam Pool Hatchery, a total of 4,343 adults (2,551 females) were trapped at Bonneville Dam, or swam into Spring Creek Hatchery. This total is below the goal of 8,200, with 4,750 females. Spawning produced 11,950,000 eggs and the projected 1990 release is 10,000,000 smolts.

For coho salmon, Oregon and Washington hatchery goals have been met with surpluses for both early and late stocks.

For upriver steelhead, the 1989 "Wild A" run was 53,500 at Bonneville Dam. The treaty fall commercial catch was 6,700, (12.5 percent of the run), and escapement after the fall (treaty) commercial fishery was 46,800 at Bonneville Dam.

For "Wild B" steelhead, the yearly run was 20,200 at Bonneville, with a fall treaty catch of 6,700 (29 percent of the run). Escapement after this season was 14,300, just slightly shy of the Bonneville Dam goals.

The 1989 hatchery runs totaled 212,700, with 117,300 A's and 95,400 B's at Bonneville Dam. Treaty fall commercial catches totaled 40,700 hatchery steelhead, while escapement after the fall fishery was 171,900.

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Common throw-aways could have far-reaching impact

Discarded materials from boats have become floating death-traps for hundreds of fish and wildlife

Although the actual impact is not yet known, the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, and Commercial and Recreational fishing interests alike are awakening to a serious threat to our marine environment.

Plain and simple, it's just called garbage.

And fishermen are just now coming to grips with the effects of these non-biodegradable throw-away items which many fishermen dispose of everyday. Many mariners have become disabled after catching debris (such as an entanglement of plastic bags) which fouled their propeller or engine intakes. This can be a frightening experience when fair weather is not at your side.

Among the materials wreaking havoc on our marine environment are discarded fishing lines (from both commercial and sport fishermen), net pieces, six-pack rings, balloons and plastic bags. Everything from pieces of styrofoam to bottle caps to cigarette lighters have been found in the stomachs of hundreds of birds and fish throughout the northwest.

These items can often cause severe internal lacerations, or, at best, false feelings of satiation which can lead to serious health complications.

Sea turtles, fiercely protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, are commonly mistaking plastic bags for the jelly fish upon which they feast. Whales too are being found with plastic in their stomachs, while parent birds have been observed (by wildlife biologists) attempting to feed plastic items such as bottle caps to their young.

One popular celebration item, the helium-filled latex and Mylar balloons, are harming marine birds and mammals at an alarming rate, according to animal rights activists. "We've known for some time that Mylar balloons

cause harm to endangered marine animals because they eat them, thinking they're consuming food," says Peter Hibbard, of New Jersey's Balloon Alert Project which is aimed at protecting our wildlife.

"Now, after treating two loggerhead turtles for blockages, we know that latex balloons are just as bad," added Hibbard. He cites other examples as well: A young sperm whale washed ashore on a New Jersey beach, the victim of a Mylar balloon which was blocking its digestive tract; and in Hawaii, a leather-back turtle, estimated to be 80-100 years old, died of starvation from a single latex balloon caught in its stomach.

These reports received public airing in Seattle after protests of the 8,000-balloon release to celebrate the beginning of the Washington Centennial on New Year's Day. Environmentalists sought to stop the release of the balloons with a court order, but it was denied.

Fishermen themselves are often victims as well as contributors. In a random sampling taken at a recent Fish Expo in Seattle, nearly 70 percent of the fishermen questioned said that they had experienced small to severe debris-related problems.

Similarly, nearly 25 percent of the some 300 Newport, Oregon sports fishermen questioned two years ago indicated that they had problems as well.

The Marine Pollution Treaty, signed by the United States and 38 other countries just last year, forbids the disposal of plastics into our navigable waterways. It also restricts the placing of other refuse including rubber, metal, glass, paper and food from a vessel within twelve miles of shore, and requires adequate refuse disposal at on-shore sites such as marinas, ports, docks, fish processors and any other commercial plants.

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New head of fisheries faces changing times

Oregon's commercial fishery resource is sound, says the state's new chief of fisheries Jim Martin.

But many changes and challenges lie ahead for the leader of the fish division of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Martin, 42, admits that both the fish-buying and the fish-producing world are changing — at a fast pace.

"A change is occurring and we are now viewing wildlife as a component of the natural system, rather than as a resource that produces dead pheasants or pounds of fish," Martin says.

The new director adds that the increasing number of interested user groups, especially ones with conservation agendas, is good for the fish resource in Oregon. Martin comments: "It's a basic difference in our approach to government. In the old days, people were willing to blindly trust authority, but now everyone wants to get involved up to their hip waders. They question everything."

Martin, a graduate of Oregon State University and a 20-year fisheries department veteran, has spent much field time in the Rogue River district, a run whose importance has become increasingly valuable to both the commercial and sport interests.

Martin says he has set his sights on the important issues which face fish and

wildlife resources such as habitat, genetic resources as well as the protection and conservation of the continuing generations of animals. Ensuring that the right amount of spawning stocks is maintained in all Northwest tributaries (including the Snake River run) is also at the top of the list.

The new chief is currently working toward creating additional pen-rearing projects, such as the one being built on Youngs Bay and the one being considered for steelhead runs on the Clackamas River, which Martin says are quite important

to our fishery resource. "The ultimate question is a balance of harvests and land use. We have to recognize that it's a serious problem to under-harvest as well as over-harvest," he says.

Martin is replacing Dr. Harry Wagner, director of fisheries for the ODFW since 1983, who retired last fall after thirty years of service to the department.

Wagner has chosen to pursue his life-long interests in the great outdoors, after a temporary three-month position as planner for the Northwest Power Planning Council.

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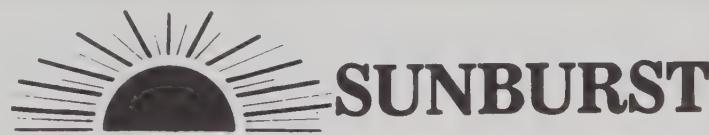
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Norway nets 100 millionth farmed salmon

THE COUNTRY of Norway has caught its 100-millionth fish-farmed salmon, a 10-pound female called "Liv," netted last September in western Norway.

And they want to sell more of them to United States consumers.

Norway's fish farming has become a thriving export industry, with nearly 75 percent of the world's market share. Since a sales organization of fish farmers was created in 1978, the country has exported more than **350,000** tons of salmon, with a price tag of \$2 billion.

More than **150,000** tons of salmon is expected to be exported from Norway in 1990, up about 20,000 tons from 1989. Of this, almost **18,000** tons will be sent to the United States.

Norwegian fish farmers say the USA is an essentially untapped market for pen-reared salmon, even though some North Coast markets refuse to sell it.

The marketing office for Norway's salmon, which just opened an office in the USA, is going to spend more than **\$1.4** million this year on promotion of their farmed-fish product, the most ever.

But now the bottom has dropped out of the world salmon market. Wholesale prices are reportedly down more than a dollar per pound from just a year ago, and the president of Maine's Ocean Products Inc., the largest salmon farm in the country, is blaming the Norwegians.

"They've glutted the market," says OPI President Wallace Stevens. "They're dumping salmon here, and dumping is not just an economic matter, it's an international legal issue."

OPI, which has invested more than \$20 million in its hi-tech hatchery the past six years, has sharply felt the impact of the falling market.

OPI is hoping to gain the support of the country's other salmon producers for a formal petition it is preparing to file with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission, citing unfair Norwegian trade practices.

Meanwhile, the current surplus of farmed fish is keeping prices down.



A Familiar Sight

ON THE MIGHTY COLUMBIA RIVER for many years was the *Service*, a supply boat for Standard Oil Company run by longtime operator Pete Tadei of Astoria.

The *Service* delivered oil and petroleum products to canneries, houses and fish receiving stations up and down the river — including Ilwaco, Altoona, Clifton, Skamokawa, Naselle and Deep River. It was a welcome sight when foul weather arrived and the heating oil tank was low. Many a tank was filled by Tadei, an employee at Standard Oil in Astoria for many years.

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Did you Know?

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Biologists began seasonal test fishing on the Columbia River near Woody Island in 1959, and has been done every year since.

Usually done in April, important information is gathered from salmon taken from a test gillnet called a "Diver."

A small fish scale can tell biologists the age of a fish, while the fin clip tells where the fish was reared. Strength of fish runs can also be measured from fin clip notations and scale samples, while destinations of the fish can be determined from fin markings...

Otter trawls have nothing to do with otters. They are a type of net used by commercial fishermen for the taking of bottom fish. Legend has it that years ago when trawling was just beginning, Scandinavians had difficulty in pronouncing "outer," (the correct word), and the name "Otter trawl" seems to have stuck...

A recent "Coastal Currents" article talked about being kind to "Our plumbing:" our lakes, streams, and delicate marine life which make up watersheds. A watershed is an area of land from which a stream receives its supply of water. It may be quite small, or as large as several states. The land is the source of the water we use. We all depend upon good, clean water in many ways.

What we put into our waterways and on our land can harshly affect the quality of the water and the fish that swim in it. Use caution when using and disposing of pesticides, and other boat and household throw-aways (especially plastic!).

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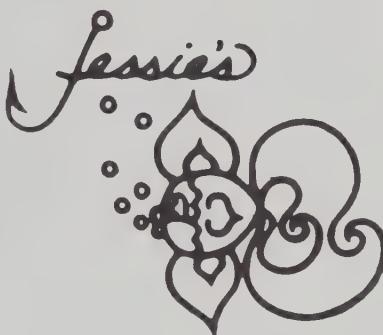
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Salmon cheeks in sushi bars?

Don't look now, but salmon cheeks just might be the next food craze to hit the USA, if the Alaska Seafood Industry Development Foundation has anything to say about it.

The Foundation says there's good food, fairly good demand and substantial profits in salmon cheeks, and is working toward the development of a hi-tech high-speed salmon head splitting machine which would craftily (and economically) remove the tasty cheek meat, as well as other edible pieces from the back of the heads.

Working since October of last year in conjunction with the Icepro Group and Icicle Seafoods of Homer, Alaska, the salmon cheeks will ultimately be minced, and used as a topping on canned salmon or on sandwiches.

In Japan, the chunk cheek meat will be sold as gourmet nuggets or fillets in sushi bars, as a possible test market for the USA.

Icepro developed a similar machine called the KVIKK cod-head splitter, which can be operated by just one person, and removes the meat at a speed of 30-35 heads per minute.

If all goes as planned, Icepro says a prototype salmon head splitter could be on-line by September.

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Larry's show involved in suit

OREGON CITY — The owners of Larry's Sport Centers are being sued by two former shareholders of the company's sportfishing television program who claim they were defrauded.

Tom Noakes, one of the founders and former producer of the television show "Fishing the West" and Todd Mesher, a videotape editor who became a shareholder later on, say they were left out of more than \$1.2 million when the show was sold in 1988.

The suit, filed jointly in Clackamas County Circuit Court last September, seeks an additional \$1 million apiece in punitive damages, as well as an unspecified amount in lost wages and attorney fees. Noakes and Mesher claim that an agreement with the owner entitled them to be compensated "for the value of their services" as the show became successful, as they were underpaid initially.

The show was sold in 1988 to Larry Schoenborn, the listed owner of Larry's Sport Centers in Oregon City and Cedar Hills (and a rather vocal opponent of commercial fishing interests as well), for \$85,000 — but the real value was \$5 million, according to Noakes and Mesher. The two are suing for their respective percentage shareholdings in the show, (21 percent for Noakes and 3.7 percent for Mesher), based on this amount.

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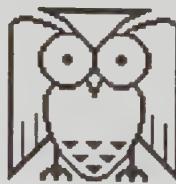
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Rare sea turtle dies of gunshot wound

SEASIDE — A rare green sea turtle which washed ashore on Peter Iredale beach late last month had been shot, according to officials from the Seattle Aquarium and Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, who traveled to the Seaside Aquarium to try to save the animal.

Initially, the turtle was thought to be suffering from the effects of hypothermia, and was still alive when it came ashore. But, attempts to save the animal failed, and an autopsy revealed a gunshot wound to the head.

The turtle, measuring approximately 32 inches and weighing in at about 80 pounds, was also bleeding from injuries to its flippers when it was found on a beach near Tolovana Park, possibly from an encounter with a fishing net.

Green sea turtles are listed as an endangered species, and are typically found in the warmer ocean waters off of Southern California and Mexico, according to a spokesperson for the National Marine Fisheries Service. The official believed the turtle could have survived the effects of the cold environment had it not been for the gunshot wound.

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Hump's re-opens after fire

CLATSKANIE — A popular roadside restaurant along Highway 30 has re-opened after a fire early last year.

Hump's, a longtime favorite of North Coast passersby, opened its new doors in late January, according to Eric and Pam Sellix, owners of the establishment.

The new Hump's, as before, will feature hearty river-side dining, a coffee shop, cocktail lounge and an handicapped-accessible upstairs banquet room. The horseshoe-shaped counter in the coffee shop also returns.

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A Wave Goodbye

Stephen Eugene Demase
April 19, 1958 — September 18, 1989

Lifelong Commercial Fisherman and Astorian Stephen Eugene Demase was killed in an automobile accident near Astoria September 18, 1989. He was 31.

Stephen, the son of Eugene "Jack" Demase of Astoria and LaVonna Martin Demase of Portland, was born April 19, 1958 in Astoria, and attended Astoria public schools. He was a member of the graduating Class of 1976 at Astoria High School.

An avid Commercial Fisherman on the Columbia River as well as Bristol Bay, Alaska, Stephen is survived by his parents; a brother Clarence of Warrenton; a son, Aaron, and two daughters, Kelly and Kristina, all of Astoria; three grandparents, Dolly Demase of Astoria, and John and Faye Martin of Portland; and aunts and uncles Clarence and Hazel Demase of Svensen, and Don and Marie Chestnut of Seaside; plus several cousins, nieces and nephews in the Astoria area and throughout the Northwest.



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Accidents at sea:

Prevention is the best medicine

ANCHORAGE — A spokesperson for the U.S. Coast Guard has released a report which states that many accidents involving commercial fishing vessels at sea can be prevented if certain procedures are followed.

Lt. Gary Stock, stationed at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Anchorage for nearly three years, says that there are five basic contributing factors to most accidents at sea.

The first of these is **weather**. Stock writes, "Commercial fishermen have to listen to the weather forecasts, and they have to be willing to heed warnings, especially the smaller vessels. And that may mean finding a sheltered bay and anchoring up for a day or two until the weather pushes through."

The next important factor contributing to fish boat accidents is **operator fatigue**. Stock continues: "Surprisingly, we have a lot of operators of fishing vessels falling asleep and running aground — larger vessels, too — and you definitely can point to fatigue in those cases."

Stock recommends that captains take the time to train their crew members to take the wheel when fatigue sets in — especially on the smaller boats, such as gillnetters. "Too often," he says, "they just don't have the people on board who the owner or operator will allow to drive the ship. So you may have one or two guys, or even one guy, who might drive 48 hours straight."

A Lack of Preventative maintenance is next on the list of critical steps to follow to avoid an accident on the high seas. Stock has heard many a story telling of failed water pumps, fouled fuel filters, broken belts, leaky fuel lines, dead batteries — and a host of others.

Engine room and electrical fires can be caused by lack of attention as well. It is undoubtedly a good idea to carry spare parts and accessories (wires, belts, filters, etc.) on-board at all times, as the marine store is many times a long way away when supplies are needed.

"I think (operators) have to have some scheduled preventative-maintenance program," Stock writes.

The **improper securing of cargo** also plays a part in many marine acci-

dents. Stock talks about what he calls the "free-surface" effect, where a closed (or partially closed) compartment, such as a fish hold full of fish, can destabilize a vessel in choppy seas. The weight of the catch combines with water, fuel, gear and supplies, and can make the craft more vulnerable to rough weather.

The fifth cause of accidents is **flooding**. A failed water pump or ruptured water line can quickly cause a significant loss of seaworthiness on smaller boats. Stock recommends a water alarm system below decks, as well as scheduled inspections on a regular basis.

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Tribes want Boldt ruling expanded

OLYMPIA — Indian tribes in the state of Washington want Seattle's U.S. District Court to widen the fishing rights extended to them by Judge George Boldt in his 1976 decision to include shellfish in areas away from reservations.

In one of the most controversial (and hotly contested) rulings in the history of American fish rights, Boldt gave Indian tribes a full 50 percent of the available fish 14 years ago, based upon treaties which had been signed with the tribes in 1854 and 1855.

At the time, Boldt was quoted as saying, "The right of taking fish is further secured to said Indians in common with all citizens." Boldt and other appellate judges took "in common" to mean 50 percent, and so it went.

This original decision included finfish only, but now the court filing in June of last year asks the courts to take the Boldt ruling one step further and include shellfish as well.

The case, bound to be controversial once again, will not come to trial for at least 18 months to two years, according to an assistant district attorney involved with the case.

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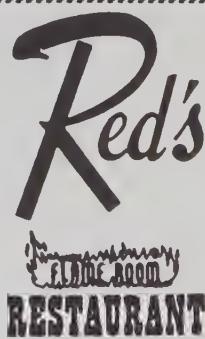


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A T I P O F T H E R A I N H A T

Hauke's says 'No' to farmed fish

ASTORIA — Two major North Coast supermarkets have decided that they will not offer pen-reared salmon on their shelves.

Only salmon caught by Commercial Fishermen will be good enough for Hauke's Sentry and Bayside Sentry Markets, which advertise heavily as a member of a 68-store group, but are independently (and locally) owned and operated.

The popular northwest Sentry chain offered pen-raised Canadian chinook salmon in a December newspaper advertisement supplement, but Hauke's and Bayside would have none of it.

On behalf of all Columbia River Commercial Fishermen, we extend a generous "Tip o' the Rainhat" to these two local markets and their owner, Skip Hauke, for their staunch support of our industry! Thank you.

Cowlitz hatchery returns are impressive

Even though hatchery returns to the Cowlitz River have far surpassed escapement goals the past five years, gillnetters are denied a piece of the action.

Fisheries officials wanted just 6,620 coho and 3,940 chinook for escapement on the Cowlitz last year, but over 35,000 silvers and 11,376 chinook actually returned. Figures were almost identical in 1988.

Sport fishermen reeled in over 4,000 coho and 3,934 chinook on the Cowlitz in 1988, while catching only 413 and 865 at the mouth of the river. 1989 figures are expected to be even higher.

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Phantom sub strikes again

An unannounced submarine tangled itself in the trawl net of the *Recruit*, an 89-foot trawler November 1 off the Washington coastline, and didn't report back to see what it had left in its wake.

"If we couldn't have gotten to those brakes fast enough, we would've been killed," said crewman Rob Horton. Apparently, Horton was hosing down the deck of the wooden vessel when he noticed a seagull leisurely floating in the opposite direction of the tide.

The sub reportedly dragged the *Recruit*, a seiner converted to a dragger, backward at a speed of approximately 5 knots, while the seiner's engines were running ahead at about one-quarter throttle.

"Something's got us," Horton told his captain, Robert Moore, as he noticed the prop wash crashing off the bow instead of the stern. The submarine then picked up speed and headed out to sea, and the *Recruit* notified the Coast Guard. The crew had just released some 550 fathoms of cable, and the fear of the cable snapping, or of the boat capsizing, was very great.

Horton said the crew kept the hydraulics in gear with the drag winches, when the cable began to spark, "like a pinwheel you buy at a fireworks stand" as it whirred through the blocks. The cable had to be cut, and with it went the drag net, two-hundred feet of mud gear, two doors and 800 fathoms of 5/8-inch main cable.

Moore also reports other losses as well. He is seeking reimbursement for the more than \$30,000 worth of lost fishing equipment, and another \$10,000 for lost crew and boat share.

"We still had a few days left," Horton said of the quest for bottomfish. "Boats were delivering 25,000 pounds of fish. I lost about \$2,500."

An investigation of the incident by the Navy and the Coast Guard is pending, but neither would comment about it. A spokesperson from the Trident Submarine Base at Bangor told a Seattle newspaper that a U.S. submarine was thought to be maneuvering in the area at the time.

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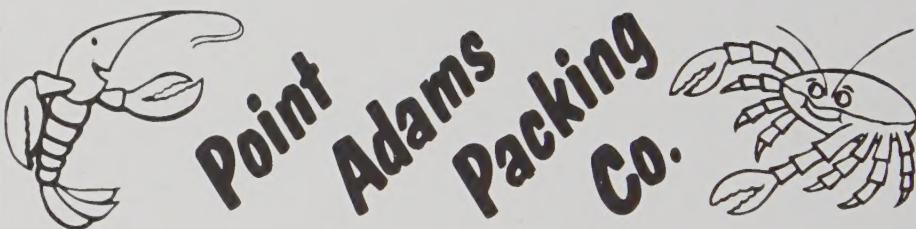
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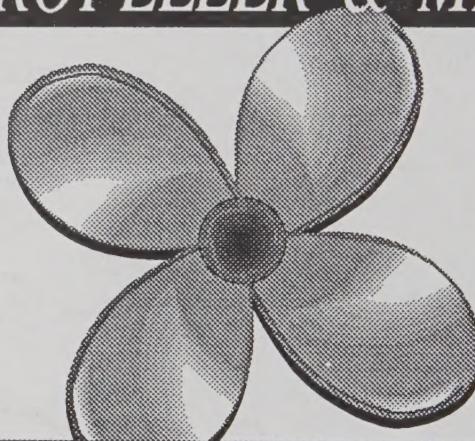
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